GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:940
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008
FUNDS FOR RESEARCH ON ANDAMAN SEA
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent for the research on Andaman sea and nearby areas during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the allocation for the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the findings of the Government on this research work?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) The details of the amount spent by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (formerly Department of Ocean Development) for the research work in Andaman Sea and islands during the last three years are as follows:

S.No.	Projects	Amount spent (Rs. In Lakhs) 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Ocean Science & Technology for Islands	41.00	90.00	192.00
2.	Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System	17.96	17.84	20.01
3.	Development of Potential Drugs from the Ocean	103.26	67.60	59.74
	Total	162.22	175.44	271.75
	Grand Total	609.41		

(b) &(c) During the XI Five year plan period, an allocation of Rs.30.00 crores is made under the Island Development programme of Ministry of Earth Sciences. This covers research pertaining to Andaman & Nicobar islands, Lakshdweep islands and adjoining seas.

(d) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) an autonomous institute under Ministry of Earth Sciences has developed technology for farming and fattening of mud crabs in floating cages and pens in brackish water lakes, canals and in the mangrove areas in Andaman. The technology has been transferred to fishermen in Andamans. The floating cellular cages designed and fabricated by NIOT for fattening crabs are used in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Further, NIOT has designed, fabricated oceanic Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) for deployments in sea to increase fish catch.

The oceanographic parameters of Andaman sea act as the benchmark for pollution free coastal environment towards monitoring of coastal ocean pollution in rest of the offshore areas of India and in this regard, samplings are carried out 4 times a year representing the seasonal variations.

Under the project on development of drugs from sea, so far 413 marine organisms were collected from Andaman Sea out of which, 61 samples were found to be potent bioactive metabolites. After confirmation of activity in the repeat extractions, four extracts showed bioactivity at very low concentrations.